



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ns

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,965	03/04/2002	Friedrich Srienc	110.01480101	6415
26813	7590	04/20/2004	EXAMINER	
MUETING, RAASCH & GEBHARDT, P.A.			PAK, YONG D	
P.O. BOX 581415			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55458			1652	

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/090,965	SRIENC ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yong D Pak	1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/20/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-94 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-26 and 34-94 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 27-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/3/03 & 7/23/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed on February 20, 2004, adding claim 94, has been entered.

Claims 1-94 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of Group I (claims 1-13, 27-33 and 94) is acknowledged.

Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Newly submitted claim 94 is directed to a method of producing PHA and ethanol using a transgenic yeast cell comprising a PHA polymerase and/or a β -ketothiolase and an acetoacetyl-CoA reductase. Therefore, claim 94 belongs to Group IV.

Claims 14-26 and 34-94 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on March 3, 2003 and July 23, 2003 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 7-10, 12, 27-28 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Leaf.

Leaf et al. (form PTO-1449 – Dissertation Abstracts International) teach a method of producing polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA) with a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* transformed with DNA encoding a *Alcaligene eutrophus* PHA polymerase, a β -ketothiolase and an acetoacetyl-CoA reductase (pages 4287-4288). Therefore, the teachings of Leaf anticipate claims 1, 7-10, 12, 27-28 and 32-33.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-13 and 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madison et al. in view of Stratagene Catalog.

Madison et al. teach a method of producing PHA in *S. cerevisiae* by introducing DNA encoding an *A. eutrophus* PHA polymerase (page 44). Madison et al. teach that low levels of PHA was due to insufficient activity of the endogenous β -ketothiolase and acetoacetyl-CoA reductase and points to improving PHA yields in *S. cerevisiae* by increasing the activities of these two enzymes.

Further, Madison et al. teach other PHA_{SCL} and PHA_{MCL} that can be used in transgenic yeasts (pages 24-35) and that many different transgenic organisms can be used to produce PHA (page 44), such as a *Kluyveromyces*, which also belongs to the family of *Saccharomycetaceae* like *S. cerevisiae*.

The difference between the reference of Madison et al. and the instant invention is that the reference of Madison et al. does not teach a method of producing PHA using a transgenic yeast comprising all three heterologous PHA biosynthesis genes.

However, expression of multiple heterologous genes in yeast is routine in the art. Also, making a single nucleic acid construct composed of more than one gene is also very routine in the art. For example, Stratagene Catalog teach a method of expressing two different genes by using a divergent promoter, wherein the two genes are present in one vector (page 23).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to produce PHA using a transgenic *S. cerevisiae* comprising of heterologous PHA polymerase, β -ketothiolase and an acetoacetyl CoA- reductase. The motivation of further expressing heterologous β -ketothiolase and an acetoacetyl CoA- reductase is to increase activity of said enzymes to increase the yield of PHA instead of using endogenous β -ketothiolase and an acetoacetyl CoA- reductase. One of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success Madison et al. teach that an increase in activity of β -ketothiolase and an acetoacetyl CoA- reductase will increase the yield of PHA.

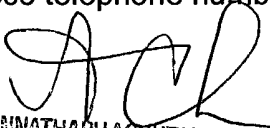
No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong Pak whose telephone number is 571-272-0935. The examiner can normally be reached 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1600.

Yong D. Pak
Patent Examiner


PONNATHAPU ACHUTAMURTHY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600